

Leonard Nimoy reveals this is the last trek into the final frontier...or is it?

LEONARD NIMOY has worn his Spock ears for the last time.

"I think it's fitting that we wrap it all up now," Nimoy tells TV WEEK, reflecting on the death in October of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry — just weeks before the release of Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country.

"With this movie, we're closing the door, and I think it's real this time."

The final Star Trek movie has been a hit in America, grossing \$18 million in its first week, and a well-received effort at celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Star Trek TV series, which was telecast from 1966 to 1969 and spawned the six movies and the current TV series Star Trek: The Next Generation, which be-

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It's time to hang

gan in 1987 and recently featured Nimoy in a cameo as Spock.

Director Nicholas Meyer brings back the original cast in a film with a storyline suggesting peace is on the horizon between the dreaded Klingons and the Federation.

Nimoy, 60, is credited as executive producer after he was asked to help develop a storyline for a sixth film which would also be a fitting tribute to the 25th anniversary.

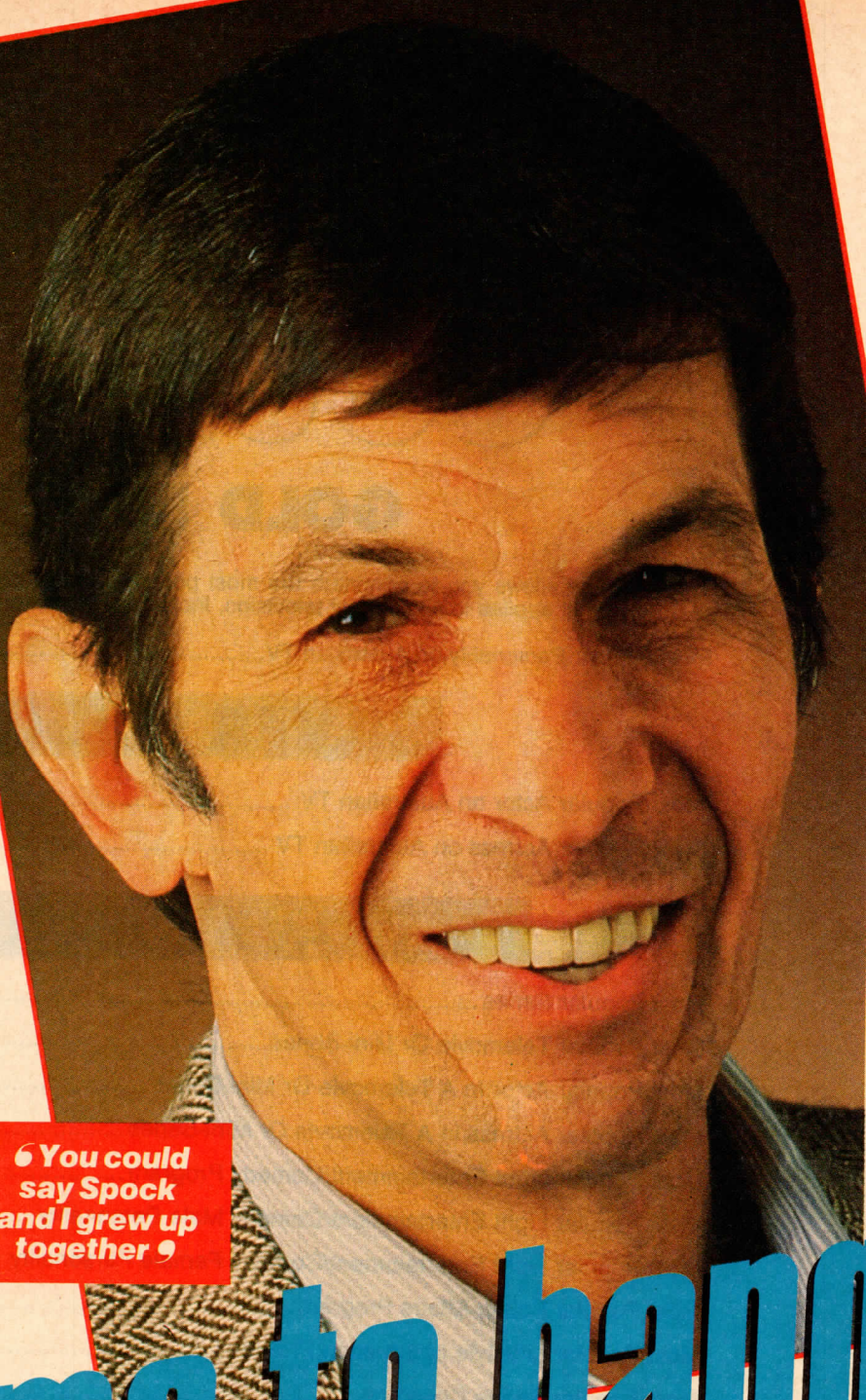
"I began thinking about the world, with the Berlin wall coming down and the Soviet government in distress and communism falling apart," he says.

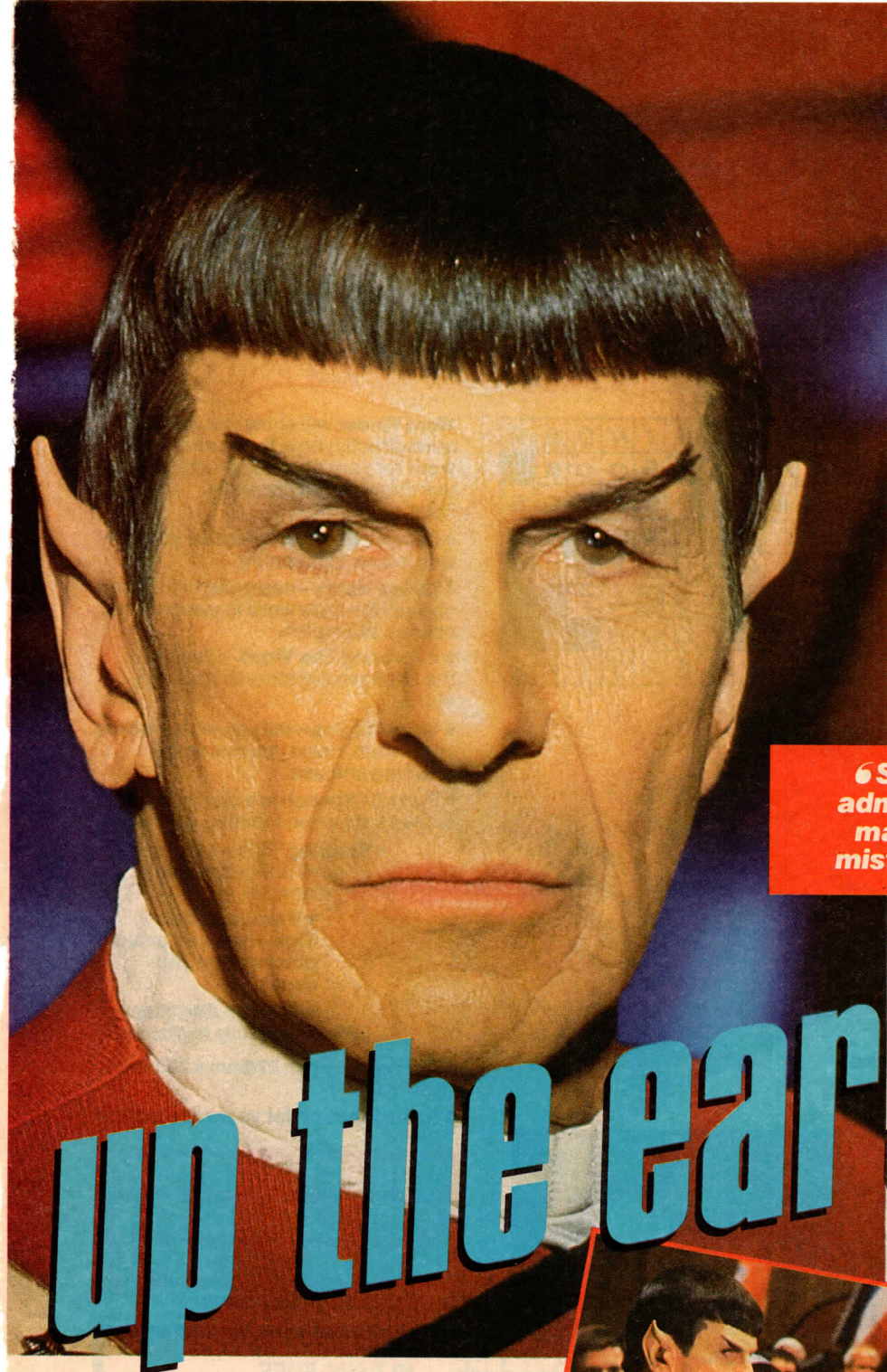
"The Klingons have been con-

stant foes of the Federation, and I wondered how we could translate contemporary world affairs to an adventure with the Klingons."

Nimoy and two co-editors came up with a peace treaty proposed by the Klingons after an explosion on their planet forced them to seek help from the Federation.

When the Enterprise is assigned to meet with Klingon Chancellor Gorkon (David Warner) — an obvious reference to Mikhail Gorbachev — to escort him to





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up the ears!

Earth, an attack on the Klingon vessel sees Captain Kirk (William Shatner) and Dr McCoy (DeForest Kelley) arrested and tried for murder by General Chang (Christopher Plummer).

Also included in this Star Trek movie is the hint of a romance between Spock and a newcomer to the Enterprise, Vulcan Lieutenant Valeris (Kim Cattrall).

Nimoy had more than 100 TV, movie and stage appearances to his credit when he won the Spock role in the original Star Trek TV series.

"I guess you could say Spock and I grew up together," Nimoy says.

"The Spock in this movie is different from that almost arrogant Spock I played in the Sixties. He was always right about everything and was sure that logic was religion. In this movie, he admits he made a mistake — that logic is just the beginning of wisdom."

Along the way, Nimoy, a three-time Emmy nominee for his portrayal of Spock, expanded his own career and directed Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home and Star Trek V: The Search For Spock, as well as hits such as Three Men And A Baby, with Tom Selleck, and The Good Mother, with Dianne Keaton.

Nothing could have prepared Nimoy for what happened when the show hit cult status, resulting in hundreds of fan clubs all over the world and regular speaking engagements for Nimoy and other Trek cast at various "Trekkie" conventions worldwide.

"My life changed then because I was suddenly not anonymous on the streets any more. I couldn't go to restaurants or theatres because it became hazardous," he says. "My life changed."

Now Nimoy is trying to slow down and enjoy some leisure time with his second wife Susan Bey, whom he met shortly after a painful divorce in 1988.

"I'm finally learning to take time off," Nimoy says. "My wife and I just came back from our first real vacation and I wanted to relax so much I almost fired a couple of people for sending me a fax!"

*From Jenny Cooney
in Los Angeles*



● Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner in a scene from the final Star Trek movie.